



CITY OF CHICOPEE

Department of Public Work

PARKS DIVISION

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RECREATION OFFICE

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CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
CITY OF CHICOPEE
2015 MAY -4 P 1:39

Carolyn Porter
Parks Superintendent

Richard Maciolek
Assistant Superintendent

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Parks and Recreation Commission

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 31, 2015

- A. **Call meeting to order:** At 7:07pm Motion to call the meeting to order by Nancy Fenton. Seconded by Gary Ziemba. Approved

Attendance: Chair Doug Girouard and Commissioners: Nancy Fenton, Elizabeth Montemagni, William Courchesne and Gary Ziemba

Moment of silence requested for 2 individuals active in Parks and Recreation Service, Ray Burke and Tim Pietras.

Motion by Nancy Fenton to suspend meeting to hear from visitors. Second by William Courchesne. Approved

Patrick Byrnes regarding a color run at Szot. See item C-9 for details.

Community Garden Council presented their Guidelines for use and Memorandum of Understanding. See item. G-3 for details.

Motion to reconvene meeting by Elizabeth Montmagni. Second by William Courchesne. Approved

- B. **Minutes of last meeting:** not available

C. **Communications:**

Field use requests - youth

1. Shannon O'Neil coach for Girls Summer Softball Metro League requesting to use Szot #1 softball field for games and practice. This is a resident youth team. Offered Szot 2 for practices at no charge and loan of a set of bases. Permit will be sent. Motion by Gary Ziemba. Seconded by Nancy Fenton. Approved
2. Robert Opsitnick, Jr. Chicopee Titians girls softball 2 teams U12 & U14, requesting 4 week nights per week April – August. Discussion regarding this field is shared by Kof C with 17 rec teams which also use Preston and Field of Dreams. Last year they had one team and the field 2 nights a week. Considering 2 nights per week till mid-June when rec league ends then 4 nights Motion by Gary Ziemba to accommodate as able. Second by William Courchesne. Approved
3. Aldenville Junior Athletic Club (AJAC) is requesting the use of Ike Alpert field for 2 boys teams U-8, U12. Permitted to use Sarah Jane and Williams for program. Motion by Gary Ziemba, Seconded by William Courchesne. Approved
4. Chicopee-Aldenville American Legion Jr and Sr baseball teams seeking use of Szot Park for 17 home games. Extended discussion regarding outstanding bill for 2014 season and the circumstances surrounding it. Motion by William Courchesne to request payment of \$500 before start of 2015 season. Legion Youth will get first preference of summer schedule before Tri-County. Will be expected to pay for use of field and lights in 2015. Seconded by Nancy Fenton. Approved

Field use requests - adults

5. Valley Wheel Baseball League for Adults seeking Chicopee Field for 6 games. Non-Resident league with no resident teams participating. Granted 5 games in 2014. Motion by Elizabeth

- Montemagni to offer 5 games (2 at Szot & 3 at Rivers), charge non-resident fee, collect rosters, assign after HS , rec teams and Legion schedules. Seconded by William Courchesne. Approved
6. Inter-church Slow Pitch Softball League for Adults seeking 3 diamonds at Szot and 1 at Rivers Park on Tuesday Nights. This is a regional league with 1or 2 Chicopee teams. Motion by Nancy Fenton to offer 3 diamonds (2 at Rivers, skinned and one at Szot). Seconded by William Courchesne. Approved
 7. Benjamin Souza with a men's team in Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League seeking game field on Tuesday and Thursdays June and July. Motion by Gary Ziemba to offer Litwin or Sarah Jane soccer field with fee. Second William Courchsene. Approved
 8. Jeff Couture, Chicopee Tigers Adult Full Count Baseball Team requests use of fields, mostly Chicopee residents on roster. Motion by Gary Ziemba to grant field space at resident rate with preference over non-resident teams for use of Rivers 90' diamond. Second by Nancy Fenton. Approved

Walks/Runs in park requests

9. Patrick Byrnes, Student at Chicopee Comp seeking permission to organize a "Color Run" around Szot Park or Ray Ash as part of a school project in early May. Requesting use of comfort station. Patrick was asked to provide a funding plan in which participants were not charged to participate and was asked to get the Police Dept's approval of the plan to run on the roads. No action taken by Commission.
10. St Stanislaus School is requesting to use Szot Park for a fitness walk April 15, 9 – 12. Motion to approve by Elizabeth Montemagni. Seconded by Nancy Fenton. Approved
11. Association for Community Living – request for a walk a thon for Down Syndrome in the fall of 2015 at Szot Park. Motion by Gary Ziemba for provisional approval for event pending certificate of insurance, payment for expenses such as staff overtime and approval by Chicopee Police Dept of proposed route and Police overtime as required. Second by William Courchesne. Approved
12. Life Point Church request to hold a small walk-a-thon fundraiser for mission trip on April 18. Use of parking lot by tanks. Number of people limited to 50, no charge to participate in walk. Motion to see this as public use of the park as they are walking on the same route local walkers use with no need for road access. No after party on site. Motion to approve by William Courchesne. Second by Gary Ziemba.
13. Tiffany Craft, Brain Injury Association request interest in walk-a-thon. Commission discussion concerned about the lack of organization and planning for this event. No action taken by Commission.

Special Events in park requests

14. Jeremy Rodriguez requesting to hold an Egg Hunt in a City park on April 5, 3-6pm. Was advised by Director to look elsewhere as the Parks Dept was hosting an egg hunt April 18. Motion to deny event by Gary Ziemba. Second by Nancy Fenton. Approved
15. St. Joan of Arc School requesting to use Ray Ash Park for a Field Day event Thursday, June 11 with a rain date of Monday June 15. Motion to approve by William Courchesne. Seconded by Nancy Fenton. Approved

D. Recreation Report

1. Adult leagues: Basketball- over, Volleyball ends April 13, Baseball and Softball Leagues – total of 36 teams, meeting have been held or are scheduled. Adult Programs: Fitness- avg 10 participants, Yoga, Lap swim, Water walking
2. Youth Sport Leagues/Teams: Suburban Basketball & Youth Rec Basketball Leagues,
3. Youth Programs: Swim Lessons – end April 16, eve adult swim – very poor attendance, Sunday family open swim avg 30 participants, Lego build – 25 participants, CPR/First aid and Babysitting low enrollment at April 22 & 23 class.
4. Scorekeeper/referee hiring process, Summer Staff applications available and due end of April.
5. Summer: OPEE Summer Program July 6 – August 14. Sign-ups begin April 18 at Bellemy School. Currently making plans for possible no pool at Fairview. Request approval from Commission to use bounce houses at OPEE. Motion by William Courchesne to permit bounce houses if secured to the ground, staffed when in use and participants signing waivers. Second Elizabeth Montemagni. Approved

6. Youth Sport Camps will be offered for basketball, lacrosse, soccer, football
7. Egg Hunt Sat April 11, 2015 at Szot Park
8. Review of indoor gyms used by Rec Dept after basketball ends. Spring teams that serve Chicopee youth and play in Rec Dept sponsored leagues, Youth teams for whom coach's CORI checks are done by the Parks Dept such as John L. Sullivan, rosters are collected from all teams
9. MRPA Stat Conference, Excel Train, Hike and Bike trail development, AAB/ADA trainings attended by Superintendent Porter with Law Dept and Planning Dept.

E. Maintenance Report

Tasks Accomplished – snow removal, sanding, beginning spring prep of home plates, pitching rubbers, picnic table, benches and sette repair, Comfort station assessment, inventory of supplies
 Parks Labor force communications: open positions, spring field prep, review no smoking policy
 2 parks staff completed the Certified Pool Operator's Course.
 Roca: snow removal, roof raking, leaf and stick pick up – right on track with funding to have them available for the remainder of the year.

F. Old Business:

1. Wisniowski Park-Our Common Backyards Grant update. No new work yet due to late spring
2. Update Szot Phase 2 & phase 3 – Tom Scarlata, Architect Agreement finalized and sent to Law for approval, AAB hearing 7/13/15
3. Update Pool repairs – Architect Appropriation Request before City Council 4/7/15 for \$173,656.000
4. Open Space Plan – update: plan for ADA site assessment, public survey, letter of support - Motion by William Courchesne to approve support of open space plan. Second by Gary Ziemba. Approved
5. InspireWorks summer enrichment program – update – Meeting with Summer School 4/21/15
6. Concession Contract – Not addressed
7. Other Old Business

G. New Business:

1. Field Use Policy – Samples provided from other communities. Commission asked that the Parks Dept staff review and make a proposal at the next Commission meeting for a new field use policy
2. Parks and Recreation Budget Requests 2016 – final version circulated. Already approved.
3. Chicopee Community Garden Council – MOU and Guidelines for use provided. Will be reviewed by Nancy Fenton and Elizabeth Montemagni for feedback.
4. Park Clean-up Day – Date May 2. Motion to support by Gary Ziemba. Seconded by William Courchesne. Approved
8. Front Street water damage – contractor quote shared. No action taken by Commission.
9. Sherwin-Williams – donation letter approved and forward to Mayor's office for approval
10. Cable internet service at Szot Garage – quote for \$39.99 per month. Motion to approve by Nancy Fenton. Seconded by William Courchesne. Approved
11. Requesting quotes for Sani- Cans and pool chemicals
12. Regional Employment board – Summer Youth Program Exploring a relationship.
13. Pool Fees – the following communities were survey to compare pool fees: Worcester, Lowell, Lawrence, Springfield, and Holyoke. All provide free summer swimming including State Pools.
14. Other new business.
 Discussion regarding the condition of the Fairview playground and the incoming principals interest in a new playground.

H. Meeting adjourned: Motion to adjourn by Gary Ziemba. Seconded by Elizabeth Montemagni. Approved

I. Next Meeting: _____ Tuesday, April 28, 2015 _____

Minutes Submitted By: _____

Elizabeth Montemagni, Commission Secretary

4-28-15